

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The most pertinent prior art known to the Examiner is listed on the attached forms PTO-892 and 1449. As shown by Hildebrand 924, Hildebrand 942, Sieber 786 and Sieber 536, the close prior arts of record, the various dye components and the application to various fibers are well-known. In particular, Hildebrand 924 and Sieber 786 separately teaches the dye of formula (1a) and formula (3b1). However, none of the prior art of record including Hildebrand 924, Hildebrand 942, Sieber 786 and Sieber 536 provides sufficient suggestion or motivation to arrive at a dye combination of specific dye components as required in the present claims. Furthermore, the declaration under Rule 132 filed on 04/20/2007 demonstrates the superior color strength retention and deviation in shades of the composition that includes the combination of dyes of formula (1a) and (3b1) as compared to the individual dyes - a showing that deviates from the expected result of the sum addition of each dye. Accordingly, the claimed invention, as a whole, would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the dyeing art. None of the prior art of record teaches, discloses or suggests a composition with the specific combination of formula (1a) and (3ba) and the dyeing method of the dye composition in the manner as those recited the present claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tri V. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6965. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on (571) 272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. V. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 1796
June 6, 2008

/Lorna M Douyon/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796